



**STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION**

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**Testimony of Stephen N. Ment  
Environment Committee Public Hearing  
February 23, 2011**

**House Bill 5516, An Act Requiring Deposit of Certain Charitable  
Contributions in the "Turn In Poachers" Fund**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on behalf of the Judicial Branch in regards to *House Bill 5516, An Act Requiring Deposit of Certain Charitable Contributions in the "Turn In Poachers" Fund*. The bill permits a person who receives a ticket to make a charitable contribution instead of paying a fine, in certain instances. As drafted, though, the bill leaves unanswered a series of questions that, unless resolved, would make implementation by the Judicial Branch impossible.

Currently, infractions and violations that are payable by mail are received by the Judicial Branch's Centralized Infractions Bureau (CIB). Payment of the infraction or violation is considered a "guilty" plea, and the money is then subsequently remitted to the General Fund. In instances where an individual opts to plead "not guilty", CIB transfers the ticket to the Superior Court location for the geographical area where the ticket was issued and, in most instances, the individual is required to go to court.

If the Committee is inclined to view this bill favorably, we would respectfully request that attention be paid to the following issues:

- To whom will the contribution be made?
- How will CIB be notified that someone has opted to make a contribution to this new fund and that payment to CIB is no longer due? CIB will be in possession of a copy of the ticket and will need to know that nothing is due, and will also need to notify the arresting agency of the outcome of the ticket.

- Will payment of the contribution be deemed to be a guilty plea? Again, CIB will still be in possession of a ticket that needs to be processed. If it is not deemed to be a conviction, then what is the outcome?
- How much does the contribution have to be?
- Lastly, if CIB is expected to alter its processes and handle the contribution, it is unclear as to how CIB would identify the payment as a contribution rather than a payment of the fine, how the money would be deposited in the appropriate fund, and what the impact of the contribution would be on the final disposition of the case.

Thank you for your consideration of these issues.